

## DISASTROUS FIRE HITS IOWA TOWN

HALF MILLION  
DOLLAR BLAZE  
AT OTTUMWA

Nearly Whole Block in Business Center Wiped Out by Conflagration.

NO LOSS OF LIFE GIVEN

No Fatalities Reported—Only One Is Believed to Have Been Injured.

Ottumwa, Ia., Jan. 11.—Figures compiled this afternoon indicate that the total loss will be \$395,500, and that insurance will amount to \$242,300, leaving a net loss of \$153,200. Owners of the burned buildings are already discussing plans for new structures and the store owners are endeavoring to find temporary quarters.

Ottumwa, Iowa, Jan. 11.—Five stores in the heart of the retail district destroyed with a loss of \$500,000, and more than one hundred persons thrown out of employment, is the result of a fire which started in the Friedman department store here early today. At 7:30 o'clock firemen were still pouring streams of water into the burning buildings but it was said there was no danger of a further spread of the blaze.

The fire originated in the elevator shaft of the Friedman department store and spread rapidly to the roof. The building is three stories high in the front section and four stories at the rear. The entire structure was gutted, the walls of the rear building falling within three hours after the fire started. The Harper and Browning three-story building, occupied by the Swirls Dry Goods store and the Woolworth Five and Ten Cent store, was the next to succumb to the flames and is a total loss.

Adjoining the Friedman store on the west, the Stevens shoe store, a three-story structure, was badly burned and the rear walls caved in. The Nelson cloak company, next door, suffered smoke and water damage as did the Edmunds building on the east of the line of buildings burned. Part of the wall of this building fell and the stock of the Woolworth store suffered heavy loss from smoke, water and falling of the walls.

The fire department early realized that the Friedman building could not be saved and turned their efforts toward saving the other stores. The location of the fire in the heart of the retail district placed many of the bigger stores in jeopardy for a time but the blaze was under control within three hours after the alarm was turned in. Six buildings were either totally destroyed or badly damaged. The structure occupied by the Friedman department store is owned by J. B. Sax and valued at \$75,000. Friedman carried a \$200,000 stock and was insured for \$100,000. The Harper and Browning building is valued at \$25,000 and one-half was occupied by James Swirls' dry goods store with a \$30,000 stock, partly insured.

Roy E. Stevens' shoe store has a loss of \$50,000 on building and stock with \$35,000 insurance. H. L. Edmunds' building, value \$20,000 and insured for \$10,000. Smoke and water damage to the Nelson cloak company is estimated at \$5,000.

Frank Jacques, an employee of the Stevens shoe store, while assisting at the fire, was severely cut by falling glass.

Iowa City Has \$35,000 Fire.  
Iowa City, Iowa, Jan. 11.—Fire destroyed the Rate Glove and Mitten factory here last night. Damage was estimated at \$35,000.

SPAIN FEARING A  
GENERAL STRIKE

Paris, Jan. 11.—A general strike in the metal industry began today at Barcelona, Spain, without incident.

According to the Madrid correspondent of the Havas agency, the duke of Alba, minister of interior, received information that international agents were touring the country, preparing for a general strike involving all Spain, with the purpose of causing the emigration of Spanish workmen to factories abroad.

The government, says the minister, observes this program is being carried out at Barcelona and will act as events require.

IRISH WILL NOT  
FURTHER OPPOSE  
BRITISH SERVICE

London, Jan. 11.—John E. Redmond, parliamentary leader of the Irish party, announced in the house of commons this afternoon that the nationalists would not further oppose the military service bill.

TAFT BOOSTED TO  
SUCCEED LAMAR

New York, Jan. 11.—A letter signed by seven men who have been presidents of the American Bar association, four of whom are democrats and three republicans, has been sent to President Wilson urging him to appoint former President Taft to succeed the late Justice Lamar on the United States supreme court bench. The letter, also signed by widely known lawyers from 14 states, was made public today.

## THE WAR TODAY

The Austrians are making important inroads on Montenegrin territory despite desperate resistance by the forces of King Nicholas.

The Montenegrin war office admits the evacuation of Berane, an important town on the river Lim, the east bank of which to the north has been cleared of Montenegrins, according to Vienna.

On the western frontier of Montenegro, Austrian forces are winning successes against defenders of Mount Lovcen, an important height near Cattaro.

The Italian liner Porto Said, sunk in the Mediterranean last month with the loss of six passengers and one sailor, was torpedoed by an Austrian submarine, according to a semi-official statement given out in Berlin. The statement asserts that the steamer tried to ram the submarine.

There has been a halt in the British force proceeding to the relief of Kut-el-Amara, but according to announcement in London its pause at a point some 20 miles from that place was due to weather conditions and the necessity of removing the wounded in the recent fighting by boat down the Tigris river.

Last night, according to the official account, the Germans were driven from the advanced French positions they had taken, except that they still hold with difficulty a small rectangle west of Maisons de Champagne.

Very heavy losses were sustained by the three German divisions or more that took part in the attack, the Paris statement claims. The Berlin war office records the shooting down in Belgium of a French battle aeroplane and a British biplane. Paris admits the loss of one aeroplane, but declares two German machines were brought down.

Fancier Fads  
in Footwear  
for Milady

New York, Jan. 11.—Shoe styles and new methods of manufacture adapted to the rapid expansion of the shoe trade are the chief topics under discussion in the convention of the National Shoe Retailers' association here. The convention opened yesterday. Manufacturers and dealers say there was an increase of \$10,000,000 in the shoe business last year and they predict that the increase will be greater this year. This is attributed to the development of shoe fashions as well as to the war.

High top boots, with color schemes in white, pearl, ivory, champagne and bronze, will be in style, it was said today. Pumps are again coming in favor and there will be many innovations in them. High heels are favored and even walking shoes are to be of smaller lasts in tan and white combinations.

GERMAN LIFE BELTS  
REPORTED PICKED UP

Berlin, Jan. 11.—"A Copenhagen newspaper states that life saving belts from a German man of war have been found on the Swedish coast," says the Overseas News agency. "It is stated authoritatively that these belts must be from the German cruiser Bremen, announcement of the sinking of which by a submarine which was made officially last month. An accident to any other ship of the German navy is out of the question."

## Rate Increase Unjustified.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Proposed increases in class and commodity rates by rail and lake routes between New England and middle Atlantic states points and the west were found unjustified by the Interstate Commerce commission. Increases proposed were about five per cent.

Danville, Ill.—Winters & Elliott, general merchants of Murphysboro, filed a petition in bankruptcy in federal court here.

THREATENED SHIP  
ARRIVES SAFELY

New York, Jan. 11.—The French liner Lafayette which was threatened with destruction in anonymous messages sent to Henry Clews, Jr., and others, who booked passage from Bordeaux, arrived here today and reported that neither a submarine or a mine had been sighted during the voyage.

Although the liner was conveyed for some distance by torpedo boat destroyers, passengers said there was considerable nervous tension aboard the ship.

The warnings received by the Lafayette's passengers were similar to those sent to several persons before they embarked on the Lusitania on her last voyage.

POLICE SEARCH  
FOR PAUL KOENIG

New York, Jan. 11.—Police began search today for Paul Koenig, the so-called chief of the Hamburg-American line secret service, who is at liberty under \$50,000 bail on a federal indictment charging him with conspiracy to blow up the Welland canal.

A warrant for Koenig's arrest was issued yesterday by a magistrate charging him with corruptly influencing Frederick Scheindel, formerly a clerk in the National City bank to deliver letters and telegrams to Koenig. Scheindel was arrested and released on bail some time ago. The new charge against Koenig is a misdemeanor which carries a maximum penalty of three years in the penitentiary.

The federal grand jury continued today its investigation of alleged alien plots. It is said that only the edges of the conspiracy have as yet been touched by federal authorities.

POSSE CAPTURES  
ESCAPED CONVICT

Joliet, Ill., Jan. 11.—Edward Roebuck, a convict serving a life sentence, was returned to the state penitentiary here today after his escape last night.

Roebuck, with three associates, stole a horse and wagon and drove to the farm of Hugh Thompson, four miles north of here. Thompson, hearing a noise in his chicken house, investigated and a lantern he carried was shot from his hand.

A posse was formed and after an exchange of shots Roebuck and two of his companions surrendered. The fourth man was caught after a chase.

## DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.  
Senator Clarke introduced a resolution to withdraw the sovereignty of the United States from the Philippines and to recognize an independent government.

Secretary McAdoo, in response to Senator Gore's request, estimated that \$120,000,000 revenue could be gained from taxes on tea, sugar and automobiles.

Senator Newlands, democrat, assailed some of the achievements of his own party.

Adopted resolution calling on Secretary of Agriculture for information on available potash fertilizer supply.

HOUSE.  
Met at noon. Naval committee continued hearings on navy bill.

Representative Foss of Ohio declared Great Britain's violations of neutral rights were greater than Germany's.

Miss Jane Addams and other representatives of woman's peace party addressed the foreign affairs committee in the interests of peace.

A concurrent resolution ordering the public printing of 100,000 copies of the final report of the industrial relations commission was adopted.

DUNNE CALLS  
LEGISLATORS  
INTO SESSION

Second Extra Meeting of Illinois Legislature Is Formally Opened.

## MUCH WORK AHEAD

Body Will Be Kept Busy Handling Business Outlined by Governor.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 11.—The second special session of the Illinois legislature met at noon today in response to Governor Dunne's call issued last Friday, but both houses were forced to recess immediately until five o'clock this afternoon because of a lack of a quorum. The governor's message which was made public at noon will be presented to the members at that time.

Only 58 of the 153 members of the lower house answered the roll call when the house was called to order at noon by Speaker Shanahan. In the senate only 19 members were present. Many bills have been prepared and will be dropped into the legislative hopper this evening when the houses reconvene.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 11.—Requests for legislation appropriating additional funds to pay damage claims caused by the recent foot and mouth epidemic among livestock; for the elimination of and combining of primary and registration dates in Chicago and down state for the purpose of cutting down election expenses; for amendments to the primary law previously presented and for several minor statutes regarding commissions were made to the second special session of the Illinois legislature today in a message submitted by Governor Dunne.

The message, which was short and which included several items contained in the governor's message to the first special session last November, was read to the lawmakers soon after the special session was called to order at noon today.

Primary Problem Untouched.  
Governor Dunne's message made no suggestion as to what primaries or registration days should be combined or done away with. However, as in his message to the last special session, it requested the lawmakers to definitely fix how delegates to national party conventions shall be selected. It is now a mooted question as to whether they shall be elected by direct vote or by party conventions.

The message also failed to make mention of splitting the ballot next fall to permit a separate ticket for presidential electors and state officers and for county officers.

Other requests made in the message were:

State Control of Serum.  
For the placing of the sale and manufacture of hog cholera serum under state control.

The message said that impure serum caused much of the recent foot and mouth epidemic.

For the enactment of a statute amending the good road laws to correct certain defects in the law relating to the issuance of bonds for good road purposes.

Validation of a \$2,000,000 good roads bond issue in Cook county.

Recreation by statute of the state centennial commission.

Enactment of an appropriation to pay the secretary of the state civil service commission back salary.

Enactment of additional appropriation.

(Continued on Page Twelve.)

PUBLISHERS OF  
MENACE ON TRIAL

Joplin, Mo., Jan. 11.—Charged with sending obscene literature through the mails, four men alleged to have been connected with the Menace Publishing company of Aurora, Mo., publishers of the Menace, a weekly newspaper, faced trial in federal court here today.

The defendants are Wilbur Phelps, Bruce M. Phelps, Theodore C. Walker and Marvin Brown.

In addition to being charged with circulating through the mails improper articles printed in the Menace, the defendants are charged with having aided in the distribution of a book alleged to have contained obscene passages.

WifetoNurse  
Man to Life  
Shot by Girl

Joliet, Jan. 11.—John Robert, prosperous manufacturer, who was shot yesterday by Lillian Pfeiffer, for seven years known to Joliet friends as Mrs. Robert, lay at the point of death today at the hospital to which he was taken after the woman attacked him and killed herself. Physicians said his chances for life were slight.

Philadelphia, Jan. 11.—Relatives here of John Ulrich, alias Robert, who was shot in Joliet, Ill., yesterday by Mrs. Lillian Pfeiffer with whom he eloped six years ago, are willing to forgive him if he recovers. His wife and their four children live in West Philadelphia. The wife and a sister of Ulrich said they would go to Joliet and care for him.

Mrs. Pfeiffer's body will be brought here for burial. The woman is believed to have sought to kill Ulrich because she feared he would return to his family in this city.

DEMOCRAT PARTY  
TARGET OF TALK  
BY OWN SENATOR

Washington, Jan. 11.—Senator Newlands of Nevada, democrat, attacked his party's record in the senate today, delivering a speech in which he criticized the tariff and banking reforms—the chief legislative efforts of the Wilson administration. He declared because there had been industrial and commercial depression continuous with democratic control of legislation, the party would be in danger of defeat at the next presidential election unless the European war continued and made the president's "sagacious and firm" handling of foreign affairs the overshadowing issue.

Although he characterized the general trend of democratic legislation as commendable, the senator asserted that the party was too radical, and expressed the conviction "that no political party can hope to remain in power which adopts radical instead of evolutionary methods of reform."

Danger of a democratic defeat in the congressional elections of 1914, he said, was "averted only by the European war, which brought into sudden contrast the president's policy of watchful waiting regarding Mexico, with the mad haste of the European nations as they rushed into war, and which made that policy as popular as it had theretofore been unpopular."

"The realization that similar prudence would keep us out of European complications," he added, "saved the party at the last election from the defeat which would have surely come as the result of the general prostration of business, popularly attributed to our economic legislation."

TOWN OF RIOT IS  
SCENE OF PEACE

Youngstown, O., Jan. 11.—The grand jury investigation into the strike at the plant of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company was resumed today with a score of witnesses waiting to testify.

The gates at the Republic Iron and Steel company's plant where 7,000 men have been on a strike since Dec. 27, reopened today and many returned to work.

## Latest Bulletins

El Paso, Tex., Jan. 11.—The American Smelting and Refining company representative here received a telegram from Chihuahua City today stating it was reported that a train load of employees which left the capital yesterday for western Chihuahua had been held up by Villa bandits and all the Americans killed.

Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 11.—Northwestern states and Canada shivered today under a cold blast from the north that sent temperatures down to record points for the season in many sections.

With its thermometers registering 48 degrees below zero, Battle Ford, Sask., held first position in point of low temperatures.

Chicago, Jan. 11.—The appellate court today reversed a decision by the circuit court which awarded to Governor Edward F. Dunne \$15,000 as compensation for his services as sole surviving trustee under the will of John S. Cooke, wealthy brewer, who died March 12, 1899.

GIVE AUSTRO  
SUBACCOUNT  
OF DISASTER

Sinking of Italian Liner Porto Said Told in Semi-Official Statement.

## PUT BLAME ON STEAMER

Submarine Report Throws Responsibility of Loss of Life on Vessel Sunk.

Berlin, Jan. 11 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—A statement given out today by the semi-official Overseas News Agency establishes the fact that it was an Austrian submarine which sank the Italian liner Porto Said in the Mediterranean last month, causing the death of six passengers and one member of the crew. It is asserted the steamship attempted to ram the submarine.

The statement follows: "In reference to the sinking of the Italian steamship Porto Said by an Austrian-Hungarian submarine: 'Vienna reports that the submarine ordered the steamship to stop. The Porto Said first attempted to escape, then ran up a white flag and halted. When the submarine approached the steamer, the latter suddenly steered at the submarine to ram her. At that juncture the submarine opened fire and hit the steamship, which again came to a halt, and lowered boats.'

Helpless Were Abandoned.  
"The submarine ceased firing, drew up to the steamship and observed that the persons in the boats which had put off from the Porto Said were making for the coast without attempting to rescue those swimming in the sea. The captain of the Porto Said was told that he would be shot if he did not save those struggling in the water. 'On the steamship were found two persons, one of whom was wounded. They were taken off in a boat from the submarine, and after the wounded person had been bandaged, both were handed over to the captain's boat. 'It was not until after this had been done that the Porto Said was torpedoed. Meanwhile the submarine, while still giving assistance, was shelled by a hostile torpedo boat and a yacht.'

CASE OF CONSUL  
BEING TAKEN UP

Berlin, Jan. 11.—Newspapers of Berlin, says the Overseas News agency, asserted that the German government has taken up the case of Edward Higgins, American consul at Stuttgart, who is said to have made statements hostile to Germany and in violation of neutrality.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Ambassador Gerard at Berlin has been authorized by Secretary Lansing to investigate unofficial charges against American Consul Edward Higgins at Stuttgart, alleging that he is pro-British and objectionable to the German government. Should the charges be proved it was said Mr. Higgins will be informed that this government will not permit unneutral activities on his part.

WILLS ALL TO WOMAN  
HELD FOR HIS DEATH

Pine Bluff, Ark., Jan. 11.—Mrs. Johnnie Jenkins, under indictment on a charge of complicity in the murder of her husband, Philip G. Jenkins, was made the sole beneficiary in her husband's will disposing of an estate valued at \$100,000, filed for probate today.

## THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vienna.

Snow tonight and probably Wednesday. Continued cold, with lowest temperature tonight about 5 or 10 degrees above zero.

Fresh northeast to northwest winds. Highest temperature yesterday, 38; lowest, 14.

Temperature at 7 a. m., 14.

Wind velocity, 8 miles per hour.

Precipitation, none.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 63 per cent. Relative humidity at 7 a. m., 72 per cent. Relative humidity at 1 p. m., 59.

River stage, 5.2 feet; a fall of 1.4 foot in last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.